

CHRONOLOGY: MSDE/STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS RELATED TO BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

STATE BOARD AUTHORITY

Under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, and under State regulations, the State Board has authority and the obligation to direct BCPSS to implement specific corrective actions such as:

- adopt curriculum, provide professional development;
- replace executive staff;
- spend dollars in specific ways;
- change the governance structure of specific schools.

The State Board may also remove schools from the control of the local board, may seek a receivership, or ask the legislature to abolish and restructure the school system.

Under Maryland's *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act*, the State Board judges whether the Master Plan and Updates actually are moving the school system toward improved student achievement. If not, the State Board can disapprove the Master Plan or Update and order specific changes.

Senate Bill 795, *Primary and Secondary Education – New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners*, provides the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education with **limited** oversight responsibility for the Baltimore City Public School System including:

1. Submission of qualified Board candidates to the Mayor and Governor (§3-108);
2. Review and approval of the school system Master Plan (§4-309); and
3. Review of each annual report and preparation of comments on the progress made towards achieving both managerial and educational goals (§4-313).

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- **1994**—Frederick Douglass and Patterson High Schools are identified by the State Board of Education as Reconstitution Eligible Schools.
- **1997**—The number of BCPSS schools that are reconstitution eligible has increased to 36.
- **1999**—Three schools are reconstituted by the State Board under a third-party provider, Gilmor, Montebello and Furman Templeton Elementary schools...2000-Edison took over the governance of these three schools.
- **2002/2003**—MD distinguished principals program put principals in four reconstitution eligible BCPSS schools.
- **2003**—State's accountability system transitions to the NCLB requirements.
- **2003, July**—BCPSS is declared a system in Corrective Action.
- **2004, Summer**—BCPSS began submission of Restructuring Plans for approval by the State Board. Multiple submissions and resubmissions occurred.

- **2004, December**—State Board directs that no additional Restructuring Plans will be approved without evidence that the Board of School Commissioners have previously approved them.
- **2006**—State Board closes out the 2003 BCPSS Corrective Actions with only one of the six fully completed.
- **2006**—89 BCPSS schools are now in some stage of Improvement, including 54 Restructuring Implementation and 9 in Restructuring Planning.
- **Since the inception of this accountability plan, MSDE has provided thousands of hours of extensive, continuous, targeted Technical Assistance.**
- **2003-2007**—Since 2003 there has been an increase of over \$200 million dollars in state funding for BCPSS because of Bridge to Excellence.
- **There are continuing difficulties with receiving an approvable plan from BCPSS for the expenditure of their Federal and State School Improvement grants.**

MASTER PLANNING

- **1997**—State Legislature requires BCPSS to develop a five-year master plan.
- **2003, August**—BCPSS submits a five-year master plan under Bridge to Excellence Act that is rejected.
- **2004, Feb.**—BCPSS resubmission of its master plan is again rejected by the State Board because of the school system’s capacity and financial problems.
- **2004, August**—BCPSS submission of Master Plan II is approved by the State Board.
- **2005, October**—BCPSS submission of Master Plan II Annual Update is rejected by the State Board.
- **2006, March**—BCPSS resubmission of the 2005 Master Plan II Update is rejected by the State Board because of its unrealistic expectations and unfocused direction given the school system’s capacity to fulfill the plan’s proposed strategies and actions.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- **1994**—MSDE becomes a defendant in the *Vaughn G.* special education litigation.
- **2004, January**—MSDE increases oversight and monitoring activities of BCPSS special education.
- **2004-2005 School Year**—Nine thousand special education students missed over 90,000 hours of related services.
- **2005, August**—The emergency order is issued by U.S. District Court. The Memorandum of Decision states, the MSDE IMCIT “plan provides the only realistic chance that BCPSS can meet, or even approach meeting, its special education obligations.”
- **2006, March**--Of the court ordered remedy to provide these missed services, only 4,000 hours have been provided to date. Approximately 55% of students have interruptions of these same services in this current school year.